

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 02795 102329Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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-----078976 112000Z /75

R 101939Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8920

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2795

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, ECON, EGEN, HA, PGOV, PINT
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER

1. I PAID A COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT DUVALIER IN ANTICIPATION OF MY DEPARTURE ON HME LEAVE. WE HAD NO AGENDA AND THE DISCUSSION WAS INFORMAL. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I WAS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND HAITI OVER THE YEAR SINCE I ARRIVED. HE CONCURRED AND SAID HE CONSIDERED OUR RELATIONS EXCELLENT. WE THEN DISCUSSED THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND DUVALIER REAFFIRMED HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT. I MADE REFERENCE TO OUR TITLE III PROPOSAL AND URGED HIM TO MOVE FORWARD IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS. THE PRESIDENT THEN LAUNCHED INTO THE USUAL DISCOURSE ON HAITIAN HISTORY, STARTING WITH J.J. DESSALINES IN 1804 POINTING OUT THE UNIQUENESS AND COMPLEXITIES OF HAITIAN SOCIETY. I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HAITE DID INDEED HAVE A UNIQUE PAST AND EXPLAINED TO THE PRESIDENT

SOME OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF OUR SYSTEM PARTICULARLY THAT CONGRESS WAS GETTING TOUGHER IN IMPOSING STRICT REQUIREMENTS ON FOREIGN AID.

2. THE PRESIDENT THEN SPOKE ABOUT THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN HAITI AND WARNED AGAINST THE COMMERCIAL CLASS WHO, HE SAID, WERE ONLY
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OUT FOR WHAT THEY COULD MAKE AS PROFITS. HE THEN GAVE ME SOME WRITINGS BY HIS FATHER ON CLASS DIFFERENCES IN HAITI. I CONCLUDED BY THANKING HIM BUT STATING THAT I VALUED BROAD CONTACTS IN HAITI AND I EXPECTED TO LEARN THE VIEWS OF ALL SOCIAL LEVELS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOTHING SPECIFIC CAME FROM THE MEETING IT WAS INTERESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SPEAK

AGAINST THE COMMERCIAL CLASS. MANY OF THESE PERSONS WERE THE ENEMIES OF HIS FATHER AND THERE LINGERS A STRONG DISTRUST BETWEEN THE CONSERVATIVE DUVALIERS AND THE MORE PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. I THINK HE WAS MAKING REFERENCE TO MY SPEECH BEFORE THE ROTARY CLUB WHERE I POINTED OUT THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE GOH HAD TO BE REFORMED IF IT WAS TO ABSORB INCREASED AMOUNTS OF AID AND I FURTHER PRESSED FOR AN IMPROVED CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT. THIS SPEECH HAS CAUSED RUMBLINGS AMONG THE OLD GUARD WHO ARE NOT USED TO CANDID ANALYSIS OF THE SHORTCOMINGS OF GOH, BUT HAS BEEN APPLAUDED BY MOST EVERYONE ELS, ESPECIALLY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

JONES

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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